

**Minutes of the Chicopee Retirement Board monthly meeting held on October 28, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. in the Auditor's Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, City Hall.**

**Present: Members : Ference, Mailhott, Boronski, Riley & O'Shea  
Also Present: Colin Edgar, Stone Consulting, Inc.**

**The Chairman called the Regular Meeting to Order at 8:30 a.m.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Ference and seconded by Ms. Riley to accept and approve the Regular Meeting minutes from the September 23, 2021 and the Executive Session Meeting dated September 23, 2021. The minutes will be placed on file. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Mailhott and seconded by Ms. Boronski to approve the monthly expense warrant #10282021, a transfer/refund warrant #10282021A and pension payrolls #0932021 and 10/29/2021. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**STONE CONSULTING** – Colin Edgar presented the Board with the Preliminary Results of the 2021 Actuarial Valuation Report at today's meeting. Larry Stone participated via telephone. Mr. Edgar reviewed the information that they were given as of December 31, 2020. He discussed changing our discount rate from 7.25% to 7.0% or 6.75% and the change it would make to our funding schedule. He also discussed what the difference would be if the Board would elect to increase our COLA base to \$16,000.00.

**At this time a motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Mr. Mailhott to keep the discount rate at 7.25% and do not increase the COLA base at this time. ALL IN FAVOR.**  
The Executive Director will notify PERAC and Mr. Edgar of this vote.

**The following people applied for membership in the system according to statute:**

1. Juanita Duvall – Law – Group #1
2. Samantha Morales – School – Group #1
3. Martha Ortiz – School – Group #1
4. Cynthia Clark – School – Group #1
5. Clarisa Hawley – School – Group #1
6. Darlene Bouchard – School Lunch – Group #1
7. Katrina Gay – School – Group #1
8. Joshua Provost – Water – Group #1
9. Nelson Lopez – Highway – Group #1
10. Irelisse Gomez – CHA – Group #1
11. Robert Lavoie – Sanitation – Group #1
12. Kathleen Caloon – Highway – Group #1
13. Spencer B. Picard – School – Group #1
14. Thomas Borkowski – Parks and Recreation – Group #1

15. James Leandro – Highway – Group #1
16. Brian Lamrande – Wastewater – Group #1
17. Daniel Pepin – IT – Group #1
18. Antonio Chretien – Parks and Recreation – Group #1
19. Shane Bethel – Water – Group #1
20. Juan Aponte – Police – Group #4
21. Berit Bjerkadal – Police – Group #4
22. Steven McKenzie – Police – Group #4
23. Liam Whitman – Police – Group #4
24. Paul James – Police – Group #4
25. Joseph Jacob – Police – Group #4
26. Gage Terlik – Police – Group #4
27. Maximilian Springmann – Police – Group #4
28. George C. Carter – CEI – Group #1
29. Ariel L. Roldan – Police – Group #4

**A motion was made by Mr. Mailhott and seconded by Mr. Ference to approve the above mentioned individuals for membership into the System. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**The following people applied for Superannuation Retirement according to statute:**

Bednarz, Corrine, School Department, Senior Custodian, wishes to retire on October 1, 2021 with 17 years and 6 months of creditable service.

McLain, Susana, School Department, Paraprofessional, wishes to retire on October 1, 2021 with 25 years of creditable service.

Oquendo, Vanessa, IT, Executive Director, wishes to retire on October 8, 2021 with 22 years and 2 months of creditable service.

Dymek, David P., Chicopee Housing Authority, Maintenance Operations Manager wishes to retire on October 8, 2021 with 22 years and 10 months of creditable service.

Sbrega, Alla J. – DPW, Wastewater, Operator – wishes to retire on October 16, 2021 with 18 years and 7 months of creditable service.

Accvedo, Divina – School Department -- Paraprofessional wishes to retire on January 3, 2022 with 26 years and 6 months of creditable service.

**A motion was made by Ms. Boranski and seconded by Mr. Ference to approve the retirement applications: ALL IN FAVOR.**

**The following retirement calculations have been prepared for the Board's approval:**

**according to statute:**

Avery, Judith – School Department, Paraprofessional – retired September 24, 2021 - \$15,013.80 per year.

Bednarz, Corrine – School Department, Custodian – retired October 1, 2021 - \$12,917.76 per year.

Carney, Louis – School Department, Custodian – retired October 1, 2021 - \$10,069.56 per year.

Despard, Joanne – School Department, Paraprofessional retired September 24, 2021 - \$4,687.44 per year.

Dymek, David – Chicopee Housing Authority, Maintenance Operations Manager retired on October 8, 2021 - \$44,523.96 per year.

McLain, Susana – School Department, Paraprofessional retired October 1, 2021 - \$22,915.56 per year.

Oquendo, Vanessa – IT Department, Director retired October 8, 2021 - \$45,537.84 per year.

Parent, Pamela – School Department, Paraprofessional retired September 24, 2021 - \$11,001.60 per year.

Potter, Daniel – DPW Highway Department, General Foreman retired September 12, 2021 - \$51,885.60 per year.

**A motion was made by Ms. Riley and seconded by Ms. Boronski to approve the above retirement calculations. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**The following transfers has been prepared for the Board's approval according to statute:**

Pytel, Jennifer – School Department, Paraprofessional transferred to Worcester Regional Retirement System - \$16,815.57.

Acevedo, Alfonso – School Department, Paraprofessional transferred to Mass Teachers Retirement System - \$37,482.09.

**After a discussion a motion was made by Mr. Ference and seconded by Mr. Mailhot to approve the above mentioned transfers. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**The following refunds have been prepared for the Board's approval according to statute:**

McAfee-Crowley, Gavin – School Department, Senior Clerk Typist – resigned July 8, 2021 – total refund \$5,013.37.

King, Christine – School Department, Assistant Teacher – resigned June 18, 2019 – total refund \$12,415.65.

**After a discussion a motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Mr. Ference to approve the above mentioned refunds. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**Cost of Living Increase** – Mass Retirees has informed us that Social Security will be granting everyone a Cost of Living increase in the amount of 5.9% as of January 1, 2022. Cities and towns in Massachusetts are only allowed to give an increase up to 3%. Therefore, Mass Retirees is developing a legislative proposal that would grant local retirement boards the authority to pay a COLA above the normal 3% for Fiscal Year 2023.

The Board discussed this issue along with the idea of increasing the COLA base from \$15,000 to \$16,000 as of July 1, 2022.

**A motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Mr. Ference to wait until the Board is notified by PERAC after the first of the year on what they are recommending for Fiscal Year 2023. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**Amended Regulations** – At the August Board meeting the Board voted to amend their Membership regulations. PERAC did not approve these regulations and asked that we amend them and resubmit for their approval.

The last paragraph is the only thing that they recommend changes to. We submitted the following:

- Past non-membership service may be purchased consistent with this supplemental regulation. In addition, for all service rendered on or after July 1, 2009, no creditable service will be granted unless the individual **received at least \$5,000 in wages during that calendar year.**

They suggest that it reads as follows:

- Past non-member service may be purchased consistent with this supplement regulation. In addition, for all service rendered on or after July 1, 2009 no creditable service will be granted unless the individual **was employed in a position with an annual salary of at least \$5,000 during that calendar year.**

However, Attorney Sacco believe this statement from PERAC is incorrect – and he believes that

we should just state:

- In addition, for all service rendered on or after July 1, 2009 a position receiving compensation of less than \$5,000 annually, shall not constitute creditable service.

After a discussion a motion was made by Mr. Ference and seconded by Ms. Boronski to make the change to the supplemental regulations as requested by PERAC, except in place of "employed in a position with an annual salary of at least \$5,000 during that calendar year" that it reads: "employed in a position receiving an annual salary of at least \$5,000 during that calendar year", and resubmit them to PERAC for their review. **ALL IN FAVOR.**

**Staff Update** -- The Executive Director and Assistant Director interviewed 12 applicants for the Administrative Assistant position that is available in our office. We received over 80 resumes and selected the best out of them to interview. I offered the position to Sandy Davis and she will be starting on the first of November, as long as she passes her physical, drug test and CORI check. She will be starting as an A02 Step 1 at \$17.28 per hour on the salary chart.

**School Department - Substitutes** - the School Department is hiring a number of Building Substitutes through a State Grant. Substitutes usually do not belong to the Retirement Board because they do not work enough hours. However these new hires will be working at least 20.25 hours per week on a permanent basis. The only thing is this is for this school year only. I checked with the auditors at PERAC and it is up to the Board to vote on whether or not these new Building Subs are going to be members of the Retirement Board.

After a discussion a motion was made by Ms. Boronski and seconded by Mr. Mailhott not to accept these Building Substitutes as members of the Retirement Board as they are being paid from a grant and are NOT permanent employees. **ALL IN FAVOR.**

**Comprehensive Medical Evaluations** - The Board received notice from PERAC that two of their retirees were evaluated for possible return to service under M.G.L. Chapter 32, Section 8. At this time, the retirees are unable to perform the duties of the job, but may be subject to future evaluation. No Board action is necessary at this time.

#### **Upcoming Board Meetings**

\*\*November 18, 2021 and \*\*December 16, 2021.

\*\* denotes when an investment manager will be in attendance.

**REPORTS AND NOTICES:**

Cash Books - July

Bank Statements - August & September

PERAC Memo - #26/2021 Retirement Board Training

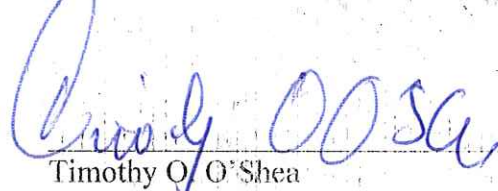
PERAC Memo - #29/2021 Expansion of Post Retirement Work in the Public Sector

A motion was made by Mr. Maillott and seconded by Ms. Boronski to adjourn the meeting  
at 10:05 a.m. ALL IN FAVOR.

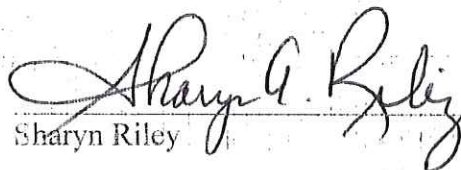


Anna Maria Hamblin, Executive Director

APPROVED: BOARD OF RETIREMENT



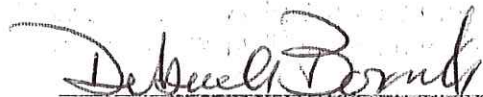
Timothy O. O'Shea



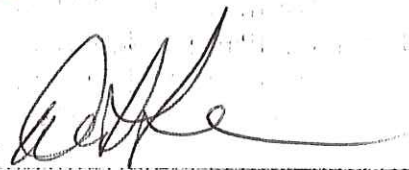
Sharyn Riley



Paul Maillott



Debra Boronski



David Ference